

REMARKS

In the parent application, the Examiner requested an updated status of all co-pending applications. Applicant submits the following information, current as of May 1, 2003: U.S. Serial No. 09/519,546 filed March 6, 2000 for Frederick Ekkel, Martinus V. Stroomer, and Jan Van Ee is pending; U.S. Serial No. 09/160,490 filed September 25, 1998 for Adrian J. Turner, Simon Pearce, David A. Eves, and Allan R. Timms is pending; U.S. Serial No. 09/189,535 filed November 10, 1998 for Yevgeniy E. Shteyn is pending; U.S. Serial No. 09/349,676 filed July 8, 1999 for Kristin D. Ondock is pending; U.S. Serial No. 09/283,545 filed March 31, 1999 for Yevgeniy E. Shteyn is pending; and U.S. Serial No. 08/987,696 filed December 9, 1997 for Wolfgang Zander issued as U.S. Patent 6,047,128 on April 4, 2000.

Applicant has carefully reviewed the prior art cited in the parent application and respectfully submits that new claims 21-40 patentably distinguish over the cited prior art.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that all claims remaining in the application after entry of this Amendment are in condition for allowance. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests entry of this Amendment and that a Notice of Allowance be issued forthwith. The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned to discuss any issues that remain unresolved.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees, including any additional claims fees and extension fees, which may be required, or credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. 50-1001.

Respectfully submitted,

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